

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USNATO 05168 01 OF 03 221951Z
ACTION EUR-12

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USICA

USICA FOR PGM/PP:LAFE ALLEN; EU FOR COHEN

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: WIRELESS FILE BYLINER BY AMBASSADOR BENNETT

REF: VARIOUS ALLEN-CLAUSSEN/REED TELCONS

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRE-SUMMIT BYLINER BY AMBASSADOR
BENNETT THAT WE HAVE DISCUSSED. ITEM IS UP TO DATE
INCLUDING REFERENCE TO JUST COMPLETED DPC. IF POSSIBLE
WOULD APPRECIATE ADVANCE NOTICE OF WHEN ITEM WILL RUN
IN WIRELESS FILE.

BEGIN TEXT:

FROM LONDON TO WASHINGTON--A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR NATO
AMBASSADOR W. TAPLEY BENNETT, JR.
U.S. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO NATO

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THE NATO SUMMIT MEETING HELD IN LONDON IN MAY OF 1977
WAS A MAJOR EVENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.
IT BROUGHT TOGETHER THE HEADS OF THE ALLIANCE NATIONS AT
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A TIME WHEN THE GRIM REALITY OF THE UNRESTRAINED GROWTH
IN SOVIET AND WARSAW PACT MILITARY POWER HAD BECOME ALL
TOO APPARENT. IT WAS ALSO THE MOMENT WHEN A NEW AMERICAN
ADMINISTRATION WAS REEMPHASIZING THE PRIMACY OF NATO AND
MAKING KNOWN ITS INTENTION OF REVITALIZING ITS EFFORTS TO
MAINTAIN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AS THE KEY TO WESTERN
DEFENSE.

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RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGE OF THE MOMENT, THE LEADERS OF THE ALLIANCE UNDERTOOK THREE MAJOR INITIATIVES. THEY ENDORSED PROPOSALS BY PRESIDENT CARTER FOR A LONG TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM (LTDP) AND A MAJOR STUDY OF EAST-WEST TRENDS, AND THEY RENEWED THEIR DETERMINATION TO COOPERATE CLOSELY IN ALL ASPECTS OF DEFENSE PRODUCTION WITH THE AIM OF DEVELOPING A MORE BALANCED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EUROPEAN AND NORTH AMERICAN MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE IN THE PROCUREMENT OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT THROUGH A TRANS-ATLANTIC DIALOGUE. NEXT WEEK'S WASHINGTON SUMMIT WILL REVIEW WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE OVER THE PAST YEAR.

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THE LONG TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM:

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BY SUPPORTING PRESIDENT CARTER'S CALL FOR A LONG TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM (LTDP) THE ALLIANCE RECOGNIZED THAT ITS DEFENSE PLANNING EFFORTS WOULD NEED TO LOOK FARTHER INTO THE FUTURE--INTO THE LATE 1980'S AND EARLY 1990'S--TO FOSTER CLOSER COOPERATIVE ENDEAVORS AMONG THE ALLIES.

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THE LTDP IS DESIGNED TO BRING A NEW ORDER TO ALLIANCE DEFENSE PLANNING AND CARRY IT FARTHER THAN HAS BEEN DONE IN THE PAST, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON COOPERATIVE ACTION. IT IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH MEMBER NATIONS CAN RATIONALLY PLAN THEIR NATIONAL
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ACTIVITIES AND TO ALLOW THE MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE TO SEE CLEARLY HOW WELL THEIR NATIONAL PROGRAMS MESH WITH THE COLLECTIVE NEEDS OF THE ALLIANCE. BY OPERATING AND PLANNING OVER THE LONG TERM AND IN CLOSE CONCERT, NEEDED ADJUSTMENTS IN NATIONAL PROGRAMS WILL BE EASIER TO MAKE AND WILL HAVE A LESS ADVERSE DOMESTIC ECONOMIC IMPACT THAN MIGHT OTHERWISE BE THE CASE.

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THE LTDP IS A PROGRAM IN THE REAL SENSE OF THE WORD, NOT SIMPLY A STATEMENT OF GOOD INTENTIONS.

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SHORTLY AFTER THE LONDON SUMMIT, 10 TASK FORCES WERE CREATED TO DEAL WITH THE WHOLE RANGE OF MILITARY PREPAREDNESS. THE TASK FORCES HAVE BEEN WORKING OVER THE PAST YEAR IN CONSULTATION WITH MEMBER NATIONS TO DEVELOP A SERIES OF REPORTS OUTLINING PROPOSED PROGRAMS FOR LONG TERM IMPROVEMENTS.

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EACH PROGRAM DEVELOPED BY THE TASK FORCES MUST MEET CERTAIN CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE DEFENSE MINISTERS.

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EACH PROGRAM:

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--IS DESIGNED TO REMEDY A SERIOUS DEFICIENCY IN NATO
DEFENSES;
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--IDENTIFIES NATIONAL OR MULTI-LATERAL CONTRIBUTIONS
REQUIRED TO REMEDY THE DEFICIENCIES OVER THE LONG TERM
AS WELL AS MID-TERM;

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--ESTABLISHES TIMING FOR CRITICAL PHASES OF THESE
CONTRIBUTIONS;

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--EXPLOITS ALL OPPORTUNITIES TO ACHIEVE GREATER
INTEROPERABILITY AND STANDARDIZATION, AND
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--RECOMMENDS MACHINERY TO FOSTER GREATER COOPERATION.

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THUS THE ENTIRE APPROACH TO THE LTDP--AN EFFORT OF A
MAGNITUDE NEVER BEFORE ATTEMPTED IN NATO--HAS BEEN A
PROGRAMMATIC ONE WHICH WILL PERMIT NATO TO GET A MORE
EFFECTIVE "MANAGEMENT HANDLE" ON NATIONAL DEFENSE
PLANNING THAN HERETOFORE POSSIBLE.

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AT THEIR SPRING MEETING HERE IN BRUSSELS LAST WEEK,
NATO'S DEFENSE MINISTERS ENDORSED THE LTDP FOR SUBMISSION
TO NEXT WEEK'S WASHINGTON SUMMIT AND RECOMMENDED THAT
THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT WHO WILL MEET THERE
ENDORSE THE PROGRAM.

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THE TRANS-ATLANTIC DIALOGUE:
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THROUGH THE TRANS-ATLANTIC DIALOGUE, THE U.S. SEES AN
OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN THE DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES
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OF THE ALLIANCE, NOT ONLY THROUGH DIRECT DEFENSE
PROGRAMS, BUT ALSO THROUGH HEIGHTENED COOPERATION BETWEEN
EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA IN RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT,
PRODUCTION, AND PROCUREMENT OF ARMAMENTS--THE SO-CALLED
TWO-WAY STREET. WHILE THIS INITIATIVE IS STILL IN
ITS FORMATIVE STAGE, A GOOD START HAS BEEN MADE, AND
IT HOLDS OUT THE PROSPECT OF GREATLY ENHANCING THE
CAPABILITIES OF THE ALLIANCE WHILE REDUCING REDUNDANT
PROCUREMENT EXPENDITURES.

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REAL PROGRESS TOWARDS A MORE BALANCED RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA IN ARMS PROCUREMENT
WILL REQUIRE FLEXIBILITY ON THE PART OF ALL THE MEMBER
GOVERNMENTS. THE UNITED STATES HAS ALREADY MADE
SIGNIFICANT MOVES TOWARDS THIS MORE COOPERATIVE STANCE.
ITS RECENT DECISION TO ADOPT THE GERMAN 120 MM TANK GUN
FOR ITS NEW MAIN BATTLE TANK, AND TO PURCHASE BELGIAN MACH-
INE GUNS FOR ITS ARMORED VEHICLES ARE MAJOR STEPS
TOWARDS A MORE EQUITABLE SYSTEM OF ARMS PURCHASES. THE
U.S. ARMY ALSO HAS ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO PURCHASE
CLOSE TO 100 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF GERMAN TRUCKS AND
OTHER VEHICLES FOR ITS FORCES IN THE FRG. OUR EUROPEAN
ALLIES AS WELL HAVE BEGUN TO TAKE NEEDED STEPS TOWARDS
CLOSER COOPERATION AMONG THEMSELVES IN THE AREA OF ARMS
DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN--MOST NOTABLY WITHIN THE
INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN PROGRAM GROUP--AN ABSOLUTE REQUIRE-
MENT IF FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARD COOPERATION IN WEAPONS
DEVELOPMENT AND ARMS PURCHASE EQUALITY IS TO BE MADE.

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IN ADDITION, U.S. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BROWN HAS
INSTRUCTED THE U.S. ARMED SERVICES ACTIVELY TO SEEK
STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY OF NATO WEAPONS
SYSTEMS. OTHER INITIATIVES ARE BEING TAKEN TO GIVE MORE
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CONSIDERATION TO EUROPEAN DEVELOPED SYSTEMS.

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EAST-WEST STUDY:

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DEFENSE PLANNING OF COURSE CANNOT BE DONE IN A VACUUM.
NATO IS FULLY AWARE THAT ITS ACTIONS MUST BE GEARED TO
MEET THE CHALLENGES IT WILL CONTINUE TO FACE FROM THE

EAST. DISCUSSIONS AT THE LONDON SUMMIT BROUGHT OUT ALL TOO CLEARLY THE RELENTLESS GROWTH IN SOVIET AND WARSAW PACT MILITARY POWER, A GROWTH FAR BEYOND THE DEFENSIVE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNIST STATES. BUT THE ALLIANCE WAS LESS SURE OF WHAT THE FUTURE HELD IN NON-MILITARY TERMS. THUS ANOTHER INITIATIVE AT LONDON CALLED FOR AN EAST-WEST STUDY. THE PURPOSE OF THIS EXERCISE IS TO LOOK NOT JUST AT THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC TRENDS IN THE EASTERN WORLD, BUT ALSO AT THE DEMOGRAPHIC, SOCIOLOGICAL AND OTHER TRENDS THAT WILL INFLUENCE FUTURE SOVIET ACTIONS AND DECISIONS.

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IT IS NOW ALMOST ONE YEAR SINCE THE LEADERS OF THE ALLIANCE TOOK THE STEPS I HAVE DESCRIBED. IT IS LEGITIMATE TO ASK JUST WHAT HAS BEEN DONE OVER THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS AND WHAT WE CAN EXPECT THE NEXT STEPS TO BE. IN PARTICULAR, WHAT DO WE EXPECT FROM ALLIANCE LEADERS WHEN THEY MEET AT THE SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON IN A FEW DAYS?

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SHORTLY AFTER THE LONDON MEETING CONCLUDED, ALLIANCE DEFENSE MINISTERS TOOK THE FIRST SIGNIFICANT STEP TO BREATHE LIFE INTO THE DEFENSE INITIATIVES.

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MEETING IN BRUSSELS, THEY AGREED THAT THE MEMBER NATIONS SHOULD AIM FOR A THREE PERCENT REAL ANNUAL INCREASE IN DEFENSE EXPENDITURES. THIS ACTION WAS SIGNIFICANT ON TWO COUNTS. FIRST IT MEANT THAT NATO WAS PREPARED TO RESPOND TO THE EASTERN MILITARY BUILDUP

WITH MORE THAN WORDS. SECOND, THE THREE PERCENT INCREASE WILL PROVIDE THE FINANCIAL UNDERPINNING FOR MOST OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LTDP SINCE, WITH THE CLOSER COOPERATION AND MORE RATIONAL COORDINATION THAT THE LTDP WILL PROVIDE, RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS SHOULD BE ADEQUATELY COVERED BY THIS INCREASE IN DEFENSE SPENDING AND BY NATIONAL PLANS ALREADY IN DEVELOPMENT.

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THE TASK FORCES I DESCRIBED EARLIER HAVE DONE AN ADMIRABLE JOB IN PROVIDING THE BASIS FOR THE REPORT THAT DEFENSE MINISTERS WILL PRESENT TO HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT AT THE WASHINGTON SUMMIT. WHILE WE ALL REALIZE THAT GOVERNMENTS' COMMITMENTS TO SPECIFIC PROGRAMS WILL ALWAYS BE INFLUENCED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL PROCESSES AND BY BUDGETARY AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS, THE LONG TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM REPORT WILL PROVIDE THE ESSENTIAL GUIDELINES THAT WILL ALLOW THE ALLIANCE TO PURSUE IMPROVEMENTS IN A MORE UNCLASSIFIED

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COHERENT, LONG RANGE, SYSTEMATIC AND COOPERATIVE MANNER.

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WORK ON THE EAST-WEST STUDY HAS CONTINUED APACE AND WILL BE PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL AT THE SUMMIT. THIS STUDY WILL PROVIDE THE ALLIANCE WITH THE FACTUAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL BASE ON WHICH TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH THE CHALLENGE IT WILL FACE IN THE COMING YEARS.

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THE TRANS-ATLANTIC DIALOGUE, TOO, HAS USEFULLY BEGUN. IN HIS JANUARY 1978 REPORT TO THE U.S. CONGRESS ON "RATIONALIZATION/STANDARDIZATION IN NATO" SECRETARY OF DEFENSE HAROLD BROWN NOTED THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN PROGRAM GROUP HAD ECHOED PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROPOSAL BY ALSO CALLING FOR A NEW TRANS-ATLANTIC DIALOGUE ON ARMS COOPERATION BETWEEN NATO EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA. MEETINGS HAVE BEEN HELD TO DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE FORA AND PROCEDURES FOR THIS DIALOGUE, AND WE ANTICIPATE GAINING MOMENTUM IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. WE ARE ALL IN FAVOR OF THE TWO-WAY STREET WHICH IS IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST.

THE WASHINGTON SUMMIT:

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AGREEMENT ON THE LTDP AND THE EAST-WEST STUDY BY THE LEADERS OF THE ALLIANCE AT THE WASHINGTON SUMMIT WILL LAUNCH NATO ON A REVITALIZED COURSE OF ALLIANCE COOPERATION. WHILE PURSUING THE COMPLEMENTARY GOALS OF DEFENSE AND DETENTE AND CONTINUING TO SEEK REALISTIC AND VERIFIABLE ARMS CONTROL MEASURES, THE NEW INITIATIVES WILL ENABLE THE ALLIANCE TO COPE WITH THE STEADY GROWTH IN SOVIET AND WARSAW PACT MILITARY CAPABILITIES BY

PRESERVING A CREDIBLE NATO DEFENSE AND DETERRENT
POSTURE THROUGH THE 1980'S AT AN ACCEPTABLE POLITICAL AND
ECONOMIC COST.
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TAKEN TOGETHER, THE LTDP, THE EAST-WEST STUDY AND THE
TRANS-ATLANTIC DIALOGUE MARK AN UNPRECEDENTED DEPARTURE
FOR NATO AND USHER IN A NEW ERA OF COOPERATIVE
ENDEAVORS.

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FOR ITS PART, THE UNITED STATES LOOKS FORWARD TO THE
SUMMIT AS A SIGNAL OPPORTUNITY TO CARRY ON NATO'S SPIRIT
OF RENEWAL THAT WAS SO EVIDENT IN LONDON. WE EXPECT THE
WASHINGTON SUMMIT TO RESULT IN A RENEWED AND STRENGTHENED
COMMITMENT TO THE DEFENSE OF WESTERN POLITICAL AND
SPIRITUAL VALUES.

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END TEXT. CLAUSSEN

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Secure: OPEN
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